



United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service

# News Release



Cooperating with Colorado Department of Agriculture  
645 Parfet St., Suite W-201 · Lakewood, CO 80215

August 12, 2009

## CROP PRODUCTION – AUGUST 2009

### COLORADO HIGHLIGHTS

**Winter wheat** production is now forecast at 93.6 million bushels, up 4.8 million bushels from July 1 and up 64 percent from the 57.0 million bushels produced last year. Growers harvested an estimated 2.4 million acres this year with an average yield of 39.0 bushels per acre, 9.0 bushels above the previous year. **Barley** production is forecast at 9.36 million bushels, up 8 percent from last year's crop of 8.64 million bushels. The area for harvest in 2009, at 78,000 acres, is up from last year by 6,000 acres. Barley yield is estimated at 120.0 bushels per acre, equal to last year's average and unchanged from the July 1 forecast.

**Corn** production is forecasted at 140.0 million bushels, down 5 percent from last year's 148.0 million bushels. The 1.0 million acres expected to be harvested for grain this year is 7 percent less than a year ago. Average yield is expected to increase 3.0 bushels per acre from last year to 140.0.

**Sorghum** production in 2009 is forecast at 4.9 million bushels, up 9 percent from the 4.5 million bushel crop harvested a year earlier. Growers expect to harvest 140,000 acres this year, down from 150,000 acres harvested last year. Yield prospects are 5.0 bushels above a year ago as producers expect to average 35.0 bushels per acre this year.

**Dry bean** production for 2009 is forecast at 858,000 hundredweight, up 30 percent from the 660,000 hundredweight produced a year earlier. Growers expect to harvest 52,000 acres this year, up 6,000 acres from the June Acreage report and up from 44,000 acres last year.

**Sugarbeet** production is forecast at just under 1.02 million tons, up 34 percent from 758,000 tons produced in 2008. Growers expect to harvest 35,000 acres this year compared with 29,600 a year ago. Yields are expected to average 29.0 tons per acre, up from 26.5 a year ago.

Colorado farmers and ranchers expect to harvest 840,000 acres of **alfalfa hay** this year, up from 820,000 acres harvested in 2008. They also expect to harvest 760,000 acres of **other hay** in 2009, up 10,000 acres from last year. Alfalfa production is forecast at 3.36 million tons compared with 2.71 million tons produced in 2008 and other hay is estimated at 1.67 million tons, up 31 percent from 1.28 million tons a year ago.

Colorado's **apple** production for this year is forecast at 16.0 million pounds, down from last year's production, of 18.0 million pounds due to late frosts that occurred in the major growing areas. The 2008 **peach** crop is expected to decrease 1,000 tons from last year to 13,000 tons.

### UNITED STATES HIGHLIGHTS

**All wheat** production, at 2.18 billion bushels, is up 3 percent from the July forecast but down 13 percent from 2008. Based on August 1 conditions, the U.S. yield is forecast at 43.3 bushels per acre, up 1.4 bushels from last month but 1.6 bushels below last year. **Winter wheat** production is forecast at 1.54 billion bushels, up 1 percent from last month but down 18 percent from 2008. The U.S. yield is forecast at 44.2 bushels per acre, up 0.4 bushel from last month but down 3.0 bushels from last year. The area expected to be harvested for grain totals 34.8 million acres, unchanged from last month but down 12 percent from last year. Hard Red Winter, at 915 million bushels, is up 1 percent from a month ago. Soft Red Winter, at 412 million bushels, is down slightly from the last forecast. White Winter is up 1 percent from last month and now totals 211 million bushels. Of this total, 23.1 million bushels are Hard White and 188 million bushels are Soft White. **Durum wheat** production is forecast at 98.0 million bushels, up 21 percent from July and up 15 percent from 2008. The U.S. yield is forecast at 39.9 bushels per acre, up 6.8 bushels from last month and 7.1 bushels above last year. If realized, this will be a record yield, 0.2 bushel higher than the previous record set in 1992. Expected area to be harvested for grain totals 2.45 million acres, unchanged from the last month but down 5 percent from last year. **Other spring wheat** production is forecast at 548 million bushels, up 8 percent from last month and up slightly from 2008. The expected area to be harvested for grain totals 13.2 million acres, unchanged from last month but down 2 percent from last year. The U.S. yield is forecast at 41.5 bushels per acre, 3.2 bushels above last month and 1.0 bushel above 2008. If realized, this will be the third highest yield on record, trailing only 2004 and 1992. Of the total production, 511 million bushels are Hard Red Spring wheat, up 9 percent from last month.

(Continued on back)

**Barley** production for 2009 is forecast at 207 million bushels, up 2 percent from the previous forecast but down 14 percent from 2008. Based on conditions as of August 1, the average yield for the U.S. is forecast at 65.8 bushels per acre, up 1.1 bushels from the previous forecast and 2.2 bushels from a year ago. Area harvested for grain or seed, at 3.14 million acres, is unchanged from the previous forecast but down 17 percent from 2008. Record setting yields are expected in Arizona, Kansas, and Wyoming, while a record tying yield is expected in Idaho. Ideal conditions in most barley-growing States allowed for substantial head development during the month. Harvest was underway in most States by the end of the month. On August 2, seventy-eight percent of this year's crop was rated in good to excellent condition, compared with 53 percent a year ago.

**Corn** production is forecast at 12.8 billion bushels; up 5 percent from last year but 2 percent lower than 2007. Based on conditions as of August 1, yields are expected to average 159.5 bushels per acre, up 5.6 bushels from last year. If realized, this will be the second highest yield on record, behind 2004, and production will be the second largest, behind 2007. Forecasted yields are higher than last year across the central Great Plains and western Corn Belt where mild temperatures and adequate soil moisture supplies provided favorable growing conditions. Expected yields were also higher across much of the Ohio and Tennessee Valleys and Atlantic Coast where beneficial moisture this year contrasted with exceptionally dry conditions last year. Yield prospects are lower in the central Corn Belt where excessive spring moisture delayed planting and below normal temperatures slowed corn emergence and development. Growers expect to harvest 80.0 million acres for grain, down 100,000 acres from June but up 2 percent from last year.

U.S. **dry edible bean** production is forecast at 24.4 million cwt for 2009, down 5 percent from last year and 2007. Planted area is forecast at 1.48 million acres, up 2 percent from the June Acreage report but down 1 percent from a year ago. Harvested area is forecast at 1.39 million acres, down slightly from June and 4 percent below the previous year's harvested acreage. The average U.S. yield is forecast at 1,750 pounds per acre, a decrease of 18 pounds from 2008. Production is forecast to be lower than 2008 in 6 of the 18 producing States, with the three largest producing States, North Dakota, Nebraska, and Michigan, anticipating lower production than a year ago.

**Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures** production is at 73.0 million tons, up 5 percent from last year. Yields are expected to average 3.48 tons per acre, slightly higher than the 3.32 tons last year. Harvested area is forecast at 21.0 million acres, unchanged from June but down 2,000 acres from the previous year's acreage. Yields are within 1 ton of last year in all States, with the majority of the States showing an increase or no change. Only six of the major-producing States decreased from last year: Arizona, California, Illinois, New York, Utah, and Wisconsin.

**Other hay** production is forecast at 79.0 million tons, up 4 percent from last year. Based on August 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 2.01 tons per acre, up 0.06 tons from last year. Harvested area, at 39.2 million acres, is unchanged from June but up 113,000 acres from the previous year. Higher moisture levels in the eastern portions of the U.S. and the Pacific Northwest increased yields from last year. Moisture deficiencies have reduced yields in several of the major-producing central States, including Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma, South Dakota, and Texas.

Production of **sugarbeets** for the 2009 crop year is forecast at 32.5 million tons, up 21 percent from last year and 2 percent above 2007. Production forecasts increased from last year in all estimating States except Michigan.

The U.S. **apple** forecast for the 2009 crop year is 10.1 billion pounds, up 4 percent from last year. Mostly favorable weather conditions for apple production were reported by growers in the apple estimating States. The August 2009 forecast of U.S. **peach** production is 1.08 million tons, up 1 percent from the July 1 forecast but 5 percent below 2008. South Carolina's forecast, at 65,000 tons, is up 5,000 tons from the July 1 forecast and last season's crop. U.S. **pear** production for 2009 is forecast at 935,300 tons, up 7 percent from last year and 2007. Bartlett pear production for California, Oregon, and Washington is forecast at 448,000 tons, 6 percent above the June forecast and 7 percent more than a year ago. Other pear production in the Pacific Coast States is expected to total 470,000 tons, 8 percent above last year.